

Totem Bight Community House (Mud Bight Village)  
5 Miles northwest of Ketchikan  
Ketchikan  
Gateway Borough  
Southeast Alaska

HABS No. AK-3

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Alaska	COUNTY Ketchikan Gateway	TOWN OR VICINITY Ketchikan Vicinity
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Totem Bight Community House		HABS NO. AK-3
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Mud Bight Village, Totem Bight State Historic Site		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) North Tongass Highway, 5 miles northwest of Ketchikan, Gateway Borough, Southeast Alaska		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Between July 1938 - June 1941 (Lynn Forrest, architect)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) L.A. Forrest, ( <u>The Wolf and the Raven - Totem Poles of SE Alaska</u> , L. Forrest, 1961)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This is one of three early aboriginal community houses built in the early 19th century by the Tlingit Indians and other area tribes. It was an innovative and historic attempt to define the value of Alaskan aboriginal culture.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Adze-hewn panels with front carved in low relief; cedar shake roof; log foundation		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 46'5" x 43'11" overall; rectangular shape with pitched roof		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Low oval entrance; tall totem pole carved column in center front of house, unusual stylize raven on front; a man (carved) wearing a spruce root hat with a crest design painted on his face sits on each of the front corner posts; smoke hole protected by moveable frame cover on roof.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) One large room with central square fireplace, around which is a planked platform. Constructed on post and beam principles. Vent opening in center of peaked roof.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Routine maintenance has resulted in replacement of some interior planking.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This was built as a Civilian Conservation Corps project in the late 1930's to create and preserve totem pole art. The work was directed by Charles Brown, head carver. The building is a replica of a 19th century structure. One of 13 poles is original.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) <u>Indigenous People &amp; Culture</u> , NPS, 1962; <u>Ketchikan, E.L. Monuments in Cedar</u> , 1943; <u>Totem Pole Survey of Southeast Alaska</u> , June-Oct., 1969, Wilson Duff, ed., The Alaska State Museum, 1969; <u>The National Register of Historic Places</u> , R.M. Greenberg, New York, Dept. of the Interior, 1976.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Melissa McDonald HABS Historian	DATE 5-31-1983	